

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/945,081

Examiner

Ted T. Vo

Applicant(s)

CHARISIUS ET AL.

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6, 9-14, 16-27, 30-35, 37-47 and 49-52.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).


* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 04/18/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


TED T. VO
Primary Examiner

HK

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. This communication is in response to the amendment filed on 12/17/2004.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' representative, Ms. Jinan Glasgow, Attorney Reg. No. 42,585, on 4/18/05.
3. Examiner amendment is given to update the information in the blanks in the specification and cancel the claim 53 that is not included and responded in the amendment filed on 12/17/04 in order to place the application in the condition for allowance.

4. In the specification: Please amend as follows:

in page 1, at line 9, after No., delete " _____ " and immediately insert - - 09/944,697 - -

in page 1, at line 12, after No., delete " _____ "and immediately insert - - 09/944,696 - -

in page 1, at line 15, after No., delete " _____ "and immediately insert - - 09/944,847 - -

In the claim: Please cancel Claim 53 as follows:

53. (cancelled).

----- END -----

5. Regarding Applicants' amendment and arguments filed on 12/17/2004 responsive to Office Action dated on 08/27/04.

Within the amendment, Claims 7-8, 15, 28-29, 36 and 48 are canceled.

Claim 53 is canceled, as appeared in this Examiner Amendment.

- The amendment has rewritten Claims 1, 13, 22, 34, and 44 into independent forms including limitations of the base claims and intervening in the manner as indicated in prior Office Action, dated on 08/27/04. Independent Claims 20 and 42 also amended in the manner as in independent Claims 1.

The amendment has been fully considered and overcome the closest art of record, Workflow Management Coalition WfMC, "Workflow Management Coalition Workflow Standard –Interoperability Wf-XML Binding".

Prior arts of record, Workflow Management Coalition WfMC, "Workflow Management Coalition Workflow Standard –Interoperability Wf-XML Binding" and Craven et al., "Goal and Processes: A Task Basis for Projects and Workflows" remain the closest arts of record.

Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 1-6, 9-14, 16-27, 30-35, 37-47, and 49-52 are allowed.

Prior art of record, Workflow Management Coalition WfMC, disclose a project model of a workflow which allows developers access into a process definition of the workflow for modification. The access provides modifying a process instance by changing instance data or even creating a new process instance of a successor. However, Workflow Management Coalition WfMC does not disclose the created process instance which is *modified including the determinations such as activity corresponds or not corresponds to the successor of the task; a successor is consistent or inconsistent with the a default-successor, where the modification is to reflect the new successor.*

Prior art of record, Craven, discloses, *a workflow includes an activity that has a duration and a plan that includes a task for performing the activity for the duration.*

As Applicants pointed out, the Claims 1, 13, 20, 22, 34, 42, and 44 are amended including the elements, as addressed in Allowable Subject Matter in the prior Office Action, which have not disclosed by Workflow Management Coalition WfMC (page 1 of ARGUMENTS Section). Also, as Applicants point out, none of the prior arts of record, Workflow Management Coalition WfMC or Craven discloses or suggests means or steps as the underline steps in pages 2 and 3 of the ARGUMENTS Section.

Therefore, the following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The cited prior arts taken alone or in combination fail to teach claimed invention as methods, computer media, and a data processing having a workflow that model a process and a plan, comprising at least features:

"determining whether the default-successor of the activity corresponds to the successor of the task; and

when it is determined that the default-successor of the activity does not correspond to the successor of the task, modifying the workflow to reflect the successor of the task"

as recited in such manners in independent Claims 1, 20, 22, 42 and 44, and so as,

" receiving a new successor for the task that is inconsistent with the default-successor of the activity in the at least one of the plans,

determining whether a number of the modified plans exceeds a predefined threshold; and when it is determined that the number exceeds the predefined threshold,


performing the modification on the workflow, and wherein the step of performing includes the step of modifying the default-successor of the activity to reflect the new successor",

as recited in such manners in independent Claims 13 and 34.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ted T. Vo whose telephone number is (571) 272-3706. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM to 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3694. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ted T. Vo
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2192
April 18, 2005